

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing unit for executing an encrypted software program, the data processing unit comprising:

~~a processor for decrypting the encrypted software program and for executing the software program, the processor including an identifying number functioning as a serial number for identifying the data processing unit, the identifying number being accessible only by the processor; and~~
~~a memory unit, the memory unit storing the decryption procedure, the encrypted program being encrypted using at least a portion of the identifying number;~~
~~wherein, when the processor is to execute the software program, the software program is decrypted using the decryption procedure along with the identifying number.~~

means for retrieving a serial number from non-volatile memory unit;

means for retrieving decryption procedure, wherein the processing unit is the unit that can retrieve the serial number from the non-volatile memory unit;

means for decrypting an encrypted software program using the retrieved serial number as an encryption key and the decryption procedure;

2. (Original) The data processing unit as recited in claim 1 wherein the encrypted software program is stored in the memory unit.
3. (Currently Amended) The data processing unit as recited in claim 1 ~~further comprising an external memory unit, wherein the encrypted software program is stored in an external memory unit.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The data processing unit as recited in claim 1 wherein the ~~identifying number is a serial number~~ relates to the data processing unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The data processing unit as recited in claim 1 wherein the serial number identifying number is associated with a plurality of data processing units.
6. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting software programs, the method comprising:
 - ~~providing a data processing unit with an identifying number functioning as a serial number for identifying the data processing unit, the identifying number being accessible only by the processing unit;~~
 - ~~encrypting a software program external to the data processing unit using at least a portion of the identifying number; and~~
 - ~~decrypting the encrypted software program prior to execution of the software program by the data processing unit using the identifying number and a decryption procedure stored in the processing unit.~~
 - retrieving a serial number from non-volatile memory unit;
 - retrieving decryption procedure, wherein the processing unit is the unit that can retrieve the serial number from the non-volatile memory unit;
 - decrypting an encrypted software program using the retrieved serial number as an encryption key and the decryption procedure;
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the ~~identifying number is a serial number~~ relates to for the data processing unit.
9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the encrypted software program is stored external to the data processing unit.
10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the encrypted program is stored in the data processing unit.
- 11-25 (cancel)